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# SONIC™

## THE HEDGEHOG

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 278



PEPPERS & DUSKIN  
UNGER



Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!



**CHARACTER  
= SELECT =**



**SONIC  
THE HEDGEHOG**  
THE FASTEST THING ALIVE



**ANTOINETTE  
D'COLETTE**  
SOLDIER & SWORDSMAN



**BIG THE CAT**  
GENTLE GIANT



**CHIP**  
ANCIENT SPIRIT



**???**

# SONIC™

## THE HEDGEHOG

### PREVIOUSLY...

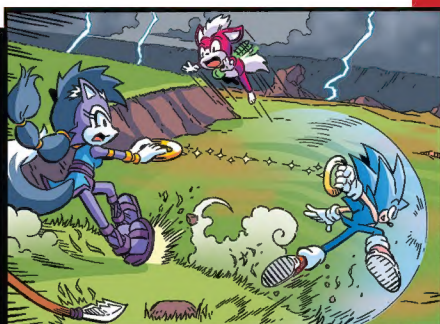
#### PATHS OF DUTY

Sonic the Hedgehog and his friends, the **Freedom Fighters**, have set out to restore the **Shattered World**! To do that, they will need access to the seven sacred **Gaia Temples**!

Sonic is travelling the globe at super-speed seeking the seven **Gaia Keys** protected by their **Gaia Guardians**!

Meanwhile, **Sally** and **Bunnie** are on the hunt for the final **Chaos Emerald**!

They need all seven emeralds to power the temples—  
**but they've run into serious trouble...**



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# FACE OF THE ENEMY

Part One FRIENDS IN NEED

GRAB SOMEONE TO ME

IT'S JUST A  
LITTLE AMBUSH,  
GUYS! WE'RE  
STILL GOOD!  
WE'RE STILL  
GOOD!

SONIC  
QUICKER  
OF ALL

SIG  
CAPTY  
NAMED

CHIP  
TRAWLISH

ANTHONY  
SACROSLIAN

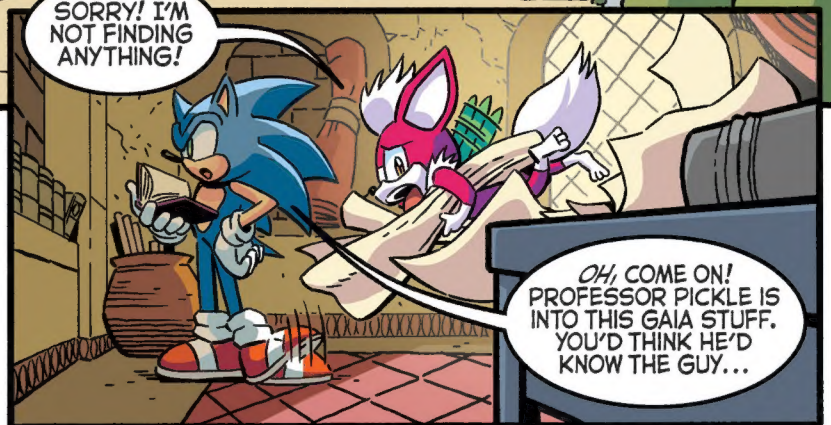
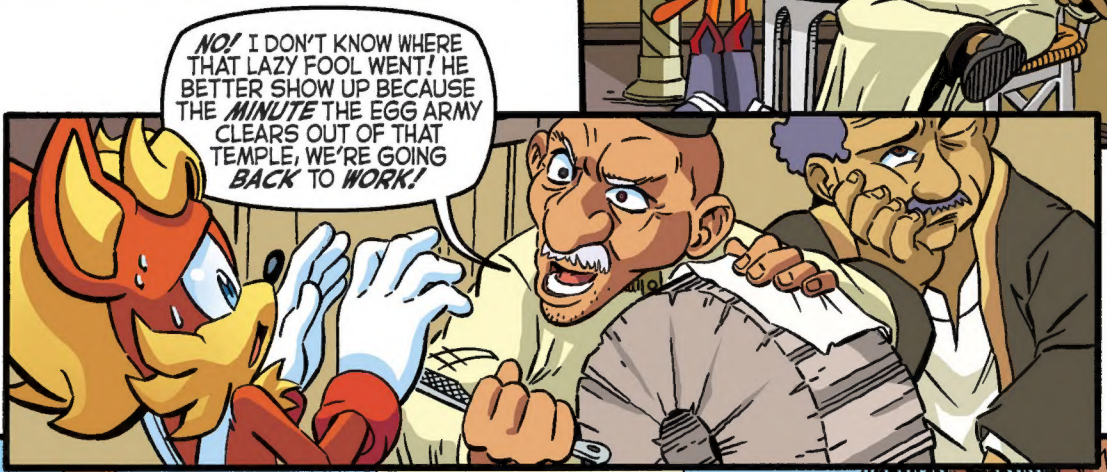
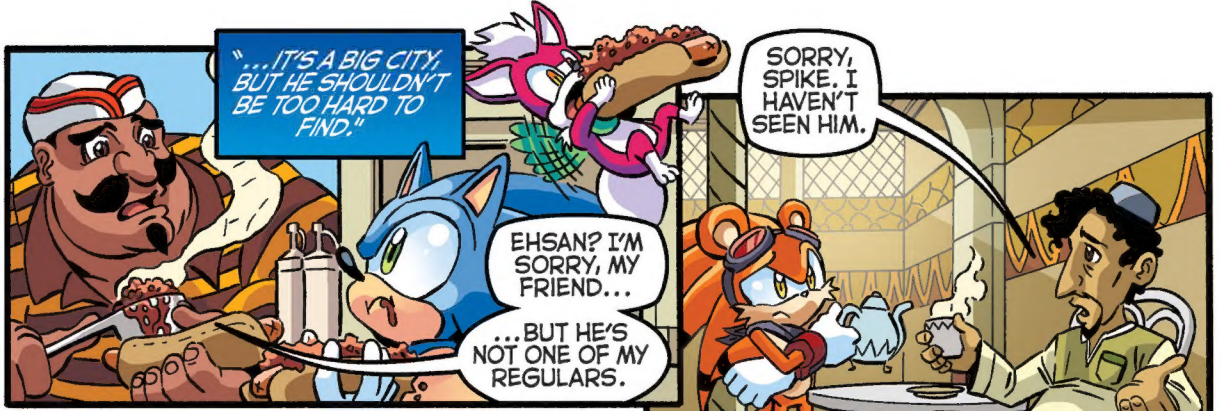
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COLORS: GABRIEL CASSARA • LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN  
COVER BY JAMAL PEPPERS, TERRY AUSTIN AND BLAIRA JINGER  
MANUAL VARIANT BY RAPI KNIGHT!  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: JONATHAN H. GRAY • EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELUCK • PRESIDENT: MIKE DELLENTO  
PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER  
SPECIAL THANKS TO STACY ARNOLD-STYDER, SANDRA JO AND  
MAI KOTANI AT SEGA LICENSING



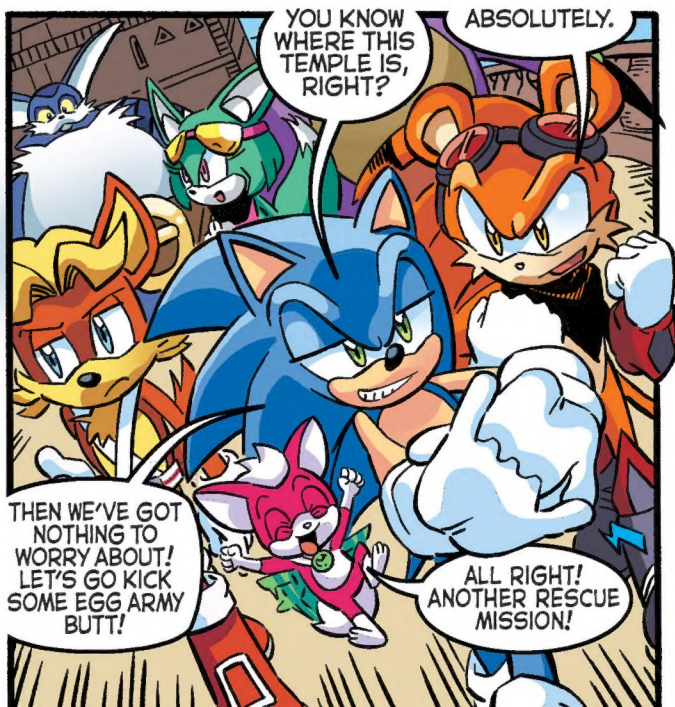
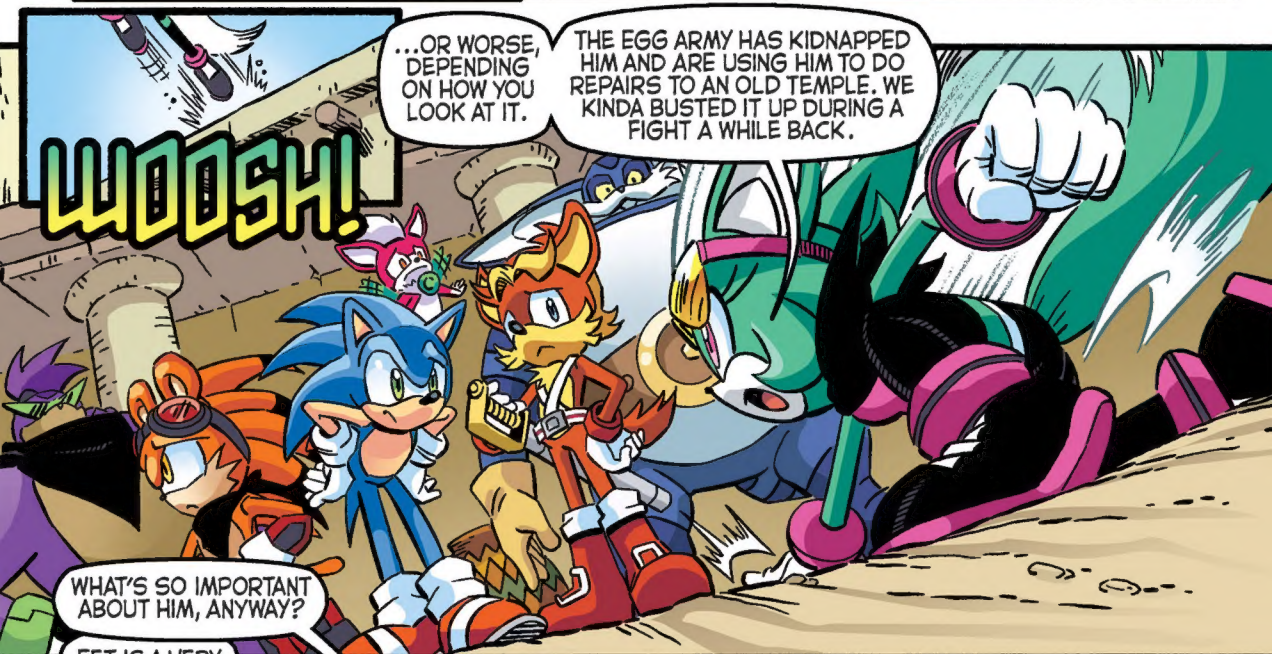
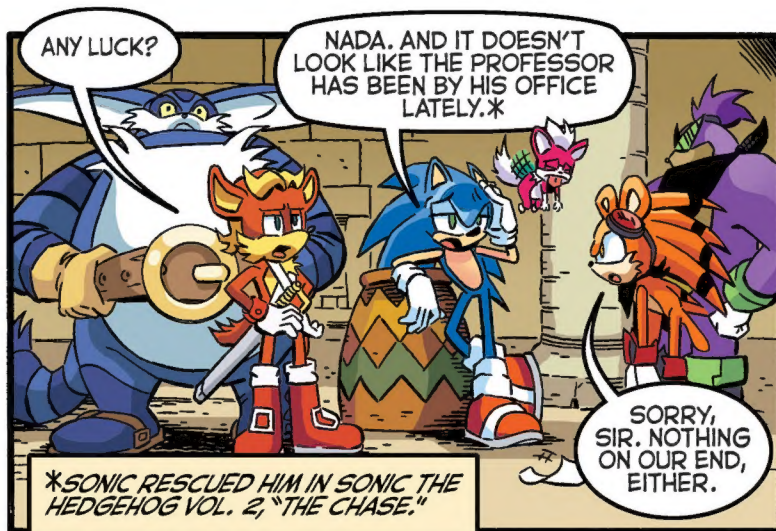




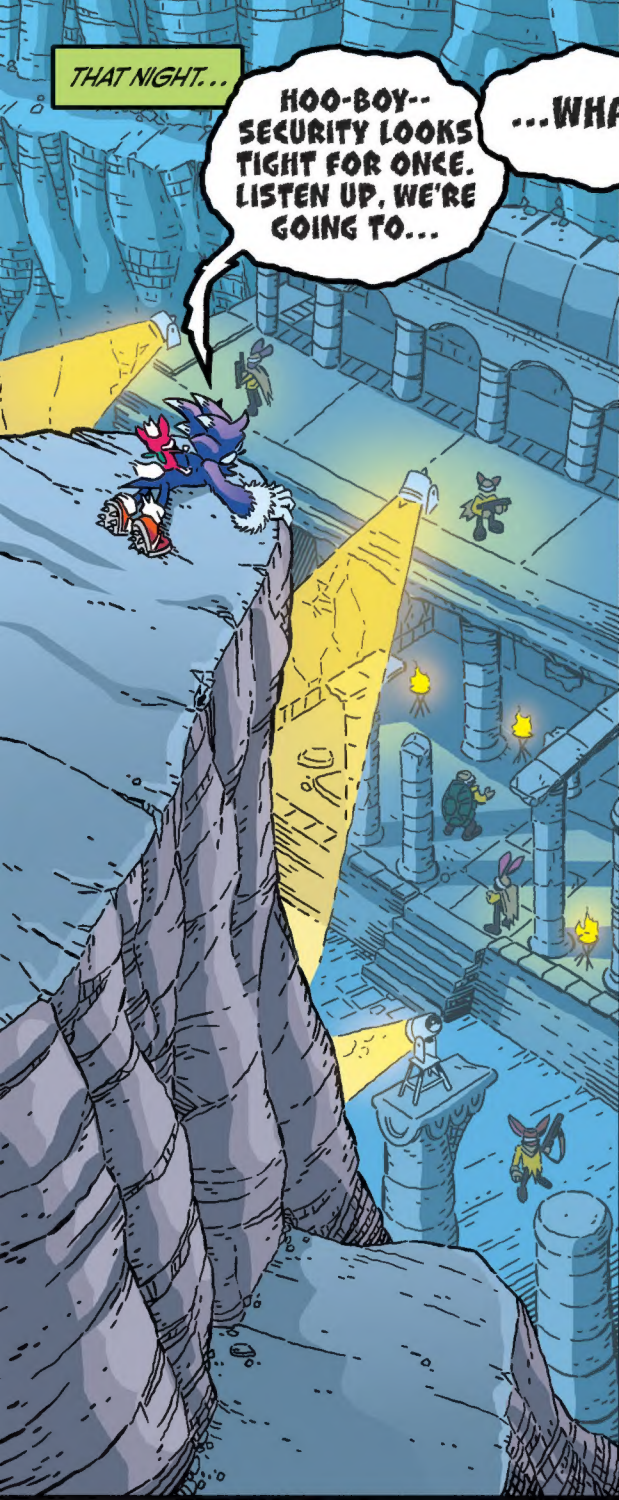












THAT NIGHT...

HOO-BOY--  
SECURITY LOOKS  
TIGHT FOR ONCE.  
LISTEN UP, WE'RE  
GOING TO...

...WHAT?



S-SORRY.  
J-JUST...WE  
WEREN'T  
EXPECTING  
*THIS* SIDE  
OF YOU!

ONE OF YOU  
WILL HAVE TO  
DESCRIBE IT  
FOR ME  
LATER.

I WANT TO  
KNOW WHAT ALL  
THE FUSS IS  
ABOUT.

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HIM?

OH, EET WAS  
TERRIBLE! I WAS  
THERE! EET IS A  
STORY OF DANGER  
AND SACRIFICE! ONE  
OF PERIL AND--

SONIC BREATHED A  
BUNCH OF DARK GAIA  
GAS, AND NOW HE  
TRANSFORMS AT  
NIGHT.\*

\*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG VOL. 1,  
"COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS."\*



YOU ARE BEING ZE  
SPOILING SPORT.

OH.  
SORRY.

I DIDN'T KNOW WE  
WERE PLAYING. CAN I  
BE ON YOUR TEAM?

NOT  
ZAT KIND OF  
SPORT!



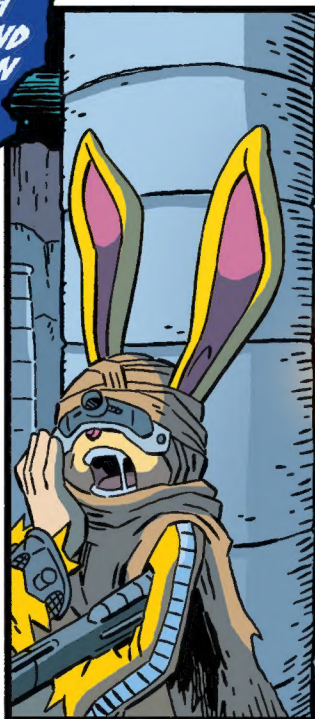
I DON'T KNOW  
HOW SAL HAS THE  
PATIENCE FOR  
THIS LEADER-  
THING...

LINE UP! WE'RE  
GOING TO SPLIT  
INTO TEAMS!





"I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND SNEAK IN FROM ABOVE."



"SPIKE, YOU GUYS KNOW THIS AREA BETTER THAN WE DO. TAKE ANTOINE AND SEE IF YOU CAN'T GET AROUND THOSE GUARDS."



"SONAR, YOU WATCH OUR BACKS. IF ANYONE FINDS YOU, SIC BIG ON 'EM."



CLAPP!

"NO, SERIOUSLY, HE'LL TOSS THE MOUNTAIN AT THEM."



SHH-SHH-SHH!  
HOLD UP!

EEK!  
WHAT IS IT?

DUNNO...



CHIP, YOU STAY WITH ME. BIG, WILL YOU CHECK IT OUT?

OKAY!



H-HELLO ...?





PROBLEM, T.B.?

FOOTPRINTS IN THE DIRT. SHALLOW. OLD. IT MEANS THE EGG ARMY HAS FOUND THIS TUNNEL.



LET'S SPLIT UP AND SCOUT AHEAD A BIT.

AGREED. SPIKE, THIS WAY.

OKAY, MISTER D'COOLETTE, YOU TAKE THAT HALL.

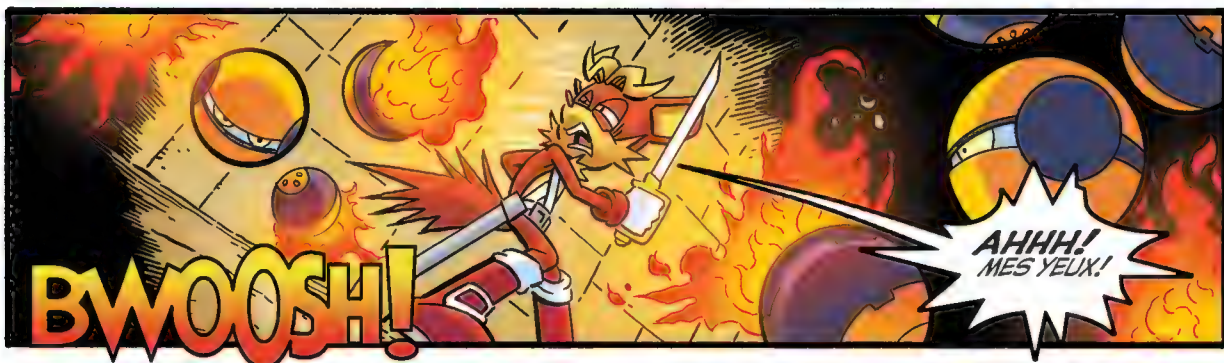
CERTAINEMENT. I AM JUST WISHING IT WAS NOT SO DARK.



NOT ZAT I AM AFRAID OF ZE DARK.

ANYMORE.

ALL ZAT MUCH.



**BWOOSH!**

AHHH! MES YEUX!



GOTTA ADMIT. THESE STRETCHY ARMS ARE FUN TO SWING AROUND ON! ALMOST MAKES SNEAKING AROUND TOO EASY, THOUGH...



RRRR RRGH?!





YOU'RE  
A LONG WAY  
FROM HOME,  
**SONIC**  
THE WEREWOLF

A PITY  
YOU'LL DIE  
HERE.

NEPHTHYS  
THE  
VULTURE  
REGIONAL  
EGG BOSS

*SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS CAME TO RESCUE A  
GAIA KEY GUARDIAN, BUT WHO'S GOING TO  
RESCUE THEM?!*  
DON'T MISS OUT ON EVEN MORE ADVENTURE WITH  
SONIC UNIVERSE,  
SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE  
GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!



STONE STORM-  
LANDS ZONE...

AH DON'T  
GET IT  
WITH YOU  
EGG ARMY  
TYPES...

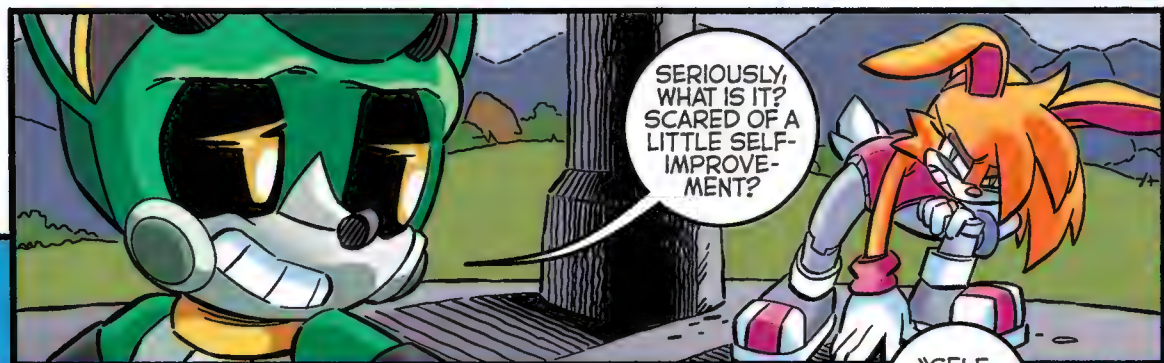
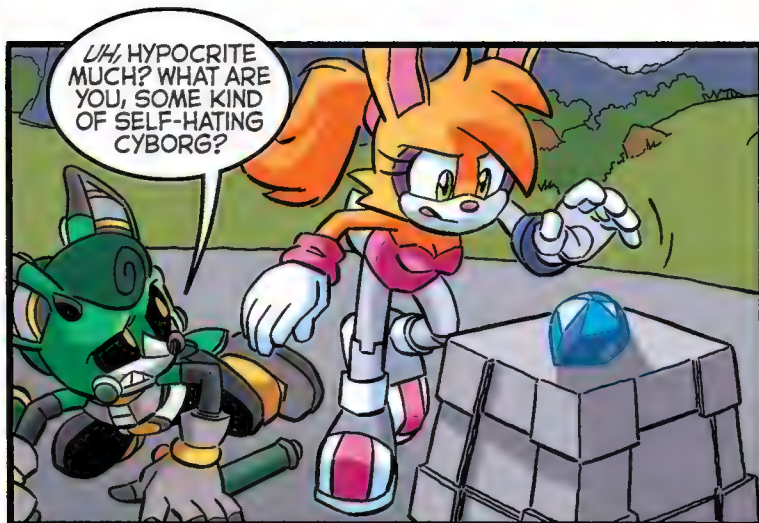
IS IT WORTH  
SELLIN' YOURSELF  
TO DR. EGGMAN  
JUST FOR SOME  
FANCY ROBOTICS?

## HIDDEN COSTS PART TWO

WRITER: ALEAH BAKER  
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY  
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN  
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA  
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

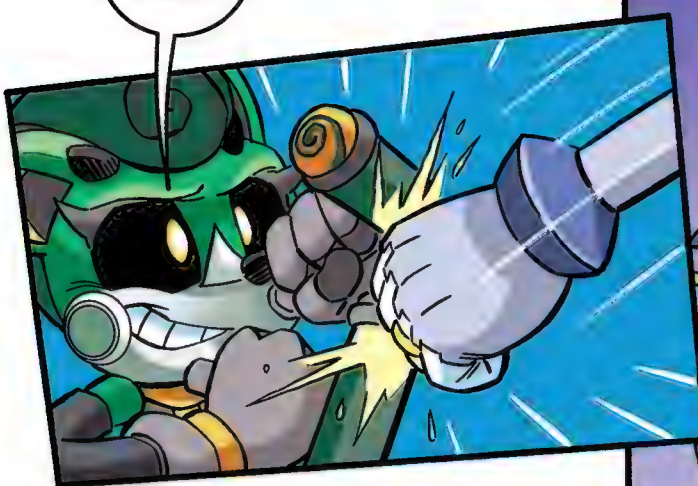
UGH!







OOH,  
DID I HIT A  
NERVE?



I MEAN, I  
GUESS *ONE*  
OF YOUR  
ARMS STILL  
HAS THOSE--  
*OOF!*



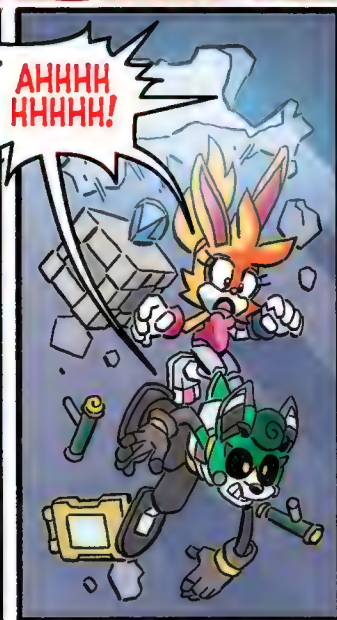
YOU  
OBNOXIOUS  
LITTLE--



DON'T  
MOVE.

OH,  
YOU'VE  
GOT TO BE  
KIDDING  
ME.

AH  
SAID  
DON'T  
---!





ELSEWHERE IN  
THE RUINS...

PRINCESS  
SALLY  
ACORN.

WHO--?

MY NAME  
IS CLOVE. I'M  
IN CHARGE OF  
THE EGG ARMY  
STATIONED  
HERE.

I ASSUME  
YOU'RE HERE  
FOR THE GAIA  
TEMPLE.

SHE DOESN'T  
KNOW ABOUT  
THE CHAOS  
EMERALD!

...YES,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

SO WHAT  
HAPPENS NOW?  
...LET ME TELL  
YOU HOW I  
SEE IT.

YOUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS  
MOUNT AN ATTACK, CHASE MY  
PEOPLE OUT AND TAKE CONTROL  
OF THE TEMPLE FOR YOUR-  
SELVES...

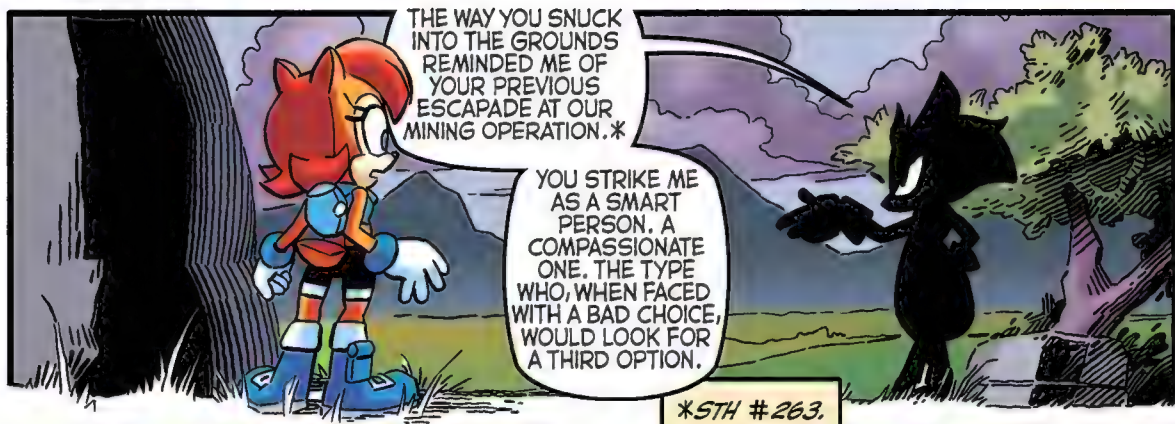
...UNTIL EGGMAN ORDERS  
ME TO TAKE IT *BACK*, LEADING  
TO *MORE* FIGHTING. HE WON'T  
LET YOU KEEP IT, NO MATTER  
WHAT HAPPENS TO US. THERE  
WOULD BE NO END TO IT.

SO YOU'RE  
SAYING I  
SHOULD JUST  
BACK DOWN?

YES.

AND WHY  
WOULD I DO THAT,  
WHEN THE PLANET'S  
AT STAKE?





THE WAY YOU SNUCK INTO THE GROUNDS REMINDED ME OF YOUR PREVIOUS ESCAPE AT OUR MINING OPERATION.\*

YOU STRIKE ME AS A SMART PERSON. A COMPASSIONATE ONE. THE TYPE WHO, WHEN FACED WITH A BAD CHOICE, WOULD LOOK FOR A THIRD OPTION.

\*5TH #263.



YOU'RE PRESUMING A LOT OF ME. FOR INSTANCE, YOU'RE ASSUMING I'M ALONE. YOU CAME HERE ON YOUR OWN, NOT KNOWING IF I'D JUST TAKE YOU PRISONER.

TRUE. AND IF I'D MADE A MISTAKE, I'D *DESERVE* THE CONSEQUENCES.



BUT I CAME HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WILLING TO HEAR ME OUT.

WAS I WRONG?

...

I DIDN'T THINK SO.



YOU'RE PRETTY CONFIDENT, AREN'T YOU?...FINE. WE'LL LEAVE THE TEMPLE ALONE.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

THOUGH...





I WILL ADMIT...WHILE I WAS HOPING YOU WERE AS REASONABLE AS YOU SEEMED, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO AGREE TO THIS SO READILY. LIKE YOU SAID, THE PLANET IS AT STAKE. SO LET ME TAKE ANOTHER GUESS HERE...

... BUT MAYBE I DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER. I SUPPOSE I'LL JUST HAVE TO RETURN TO MY POST. THIS CONVERSATION IS RISKY ENOUGH AS-IS, ANYWAY.

THIS *ISN'T* THE GAIA TEMPLE.



WAIT! YOU'RE WORKING FOR EGGMAN, BUT THEN YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SIT BACK AND PLAY IGNORANT? MAYBE... MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU--



BY NOT INVOLVING MY PEOPLE IN MORE FIGHTING, YOU *ARE* HELPING.

GOODBYE, PRINCESS.



MEANWHILE...

≡COUGH≡  
≡COUGH≡

UHN...

WAY  
TO GO,  
IDIOT!  
YOU--

OW OW  
OW!

LIGH, I  
CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!  
MY SISTER IS GONNA  
**FREAK...**

MAYBE  
YOU CAN  
JUST ASK OL'  
EGGMAN FOR A  
NEW LEG. WHAT'S  
ONE MORE  
SELFISH  
UPGRADE?

SELFISH?

IT'S SELFISH OF ME TO NOT  
WANNA BE SICK ALL THE TIME?  
I'M SELFISH FOR WANTING MY  
STUPID EYES AND EARS TO  
**WORK AGAIN?!**

...AH JUST...  
WAS EGGMAN  
REALLY THE ONLY  
OPTION?

OH, GEE, I  
SHOULD HAVE  
JUST GONE TO  
THE LOCAL  
CYBORG STORE,  
I GUESS? WHAT  
WERE MY  
OPTIONS, HUH?  
C'MON, TELL  
ME.

YOU  
DON'T KNOW  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT ME!

...YER  
RIGHT. AH  
DON'T.





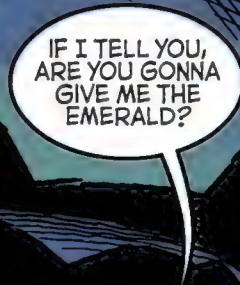
WHEN AH WAS A KID,  
AH WISHED MAH BODY  
COULD GO BACK TO  
THE WAY IT WAS. SO THE  
IDEA THAT ANYONE  
WOULD WILLINGLY GIVE  
THAT UP...



NEVER  
MIND. AH'M  
SORRY.



LOOK, WE AIN'T GETTIN' OUT  
THE WAY WE CAME IN. THIS IS  
YOUR TURF. GOT ANY IDEAS?



IF I TELL YOU,  
ARE YOU GONNA  
GIVE ME THE  
EMERALD?



NO. BUT AH *WILL*  
HELP YOU WALK  
OUTTA HERE.

I DON'T  
*WANT* YOUR  
HELP.

AH CAN TELL.  
BUT AH BET  
THAT SISTER OF  
YOURS'LL BE  
WORRIED.

...*SIGH*...

FINE.  
*FINE.*  
WHAT-  
EVER.



WE'VE BEEN  
USING THESE OLD TUNNELS  
FOR STORAGE. BECAUSE OF  
THE RAIDS AND STUFF, WE  
SEALED OFF THE SECTIONS WE  
WEREN'T USING. IF WE CAN  
BUST THROUGH...



"...IT SHOULD  
LEAD TO OUTSIDE  
EVENTUALLY."

SOOO, UH...  
I GOTTA ASK.  
WHEN YOU GOT  
YOUR CYBER-  
NETICS...

IT WAS  
TOUGH.

AH HAD TO  
LEARN TO WALK  
ALL OVER  
AGAIN.

AH'M  
JUST THANKFUL  
AH HAD MAH  
FRIENDS TO SEE  
ME THROUGH  
IT.

WHAT  
ABOUT YOUR  
FAMILY?

NO IDEA.  
MAH FRIENDS  
**ARE** MAH  
FAMILY,  
REALLY.

... OH.

BUT I MEANT  
MORE LIKE...  
DID YOU HAVE  
TO DO ANY  
SPECIAL  
TREATMENT?  
MEDICINE  
OR...?

HUH?  
NOT THAT AH  
RECALL...

NO?  
HEH...MY LUCK  
REALLY IS  
GARBAGE.



THIS IS ONE O' THOSE STORAGE ROOMS YOU MENTIONED?

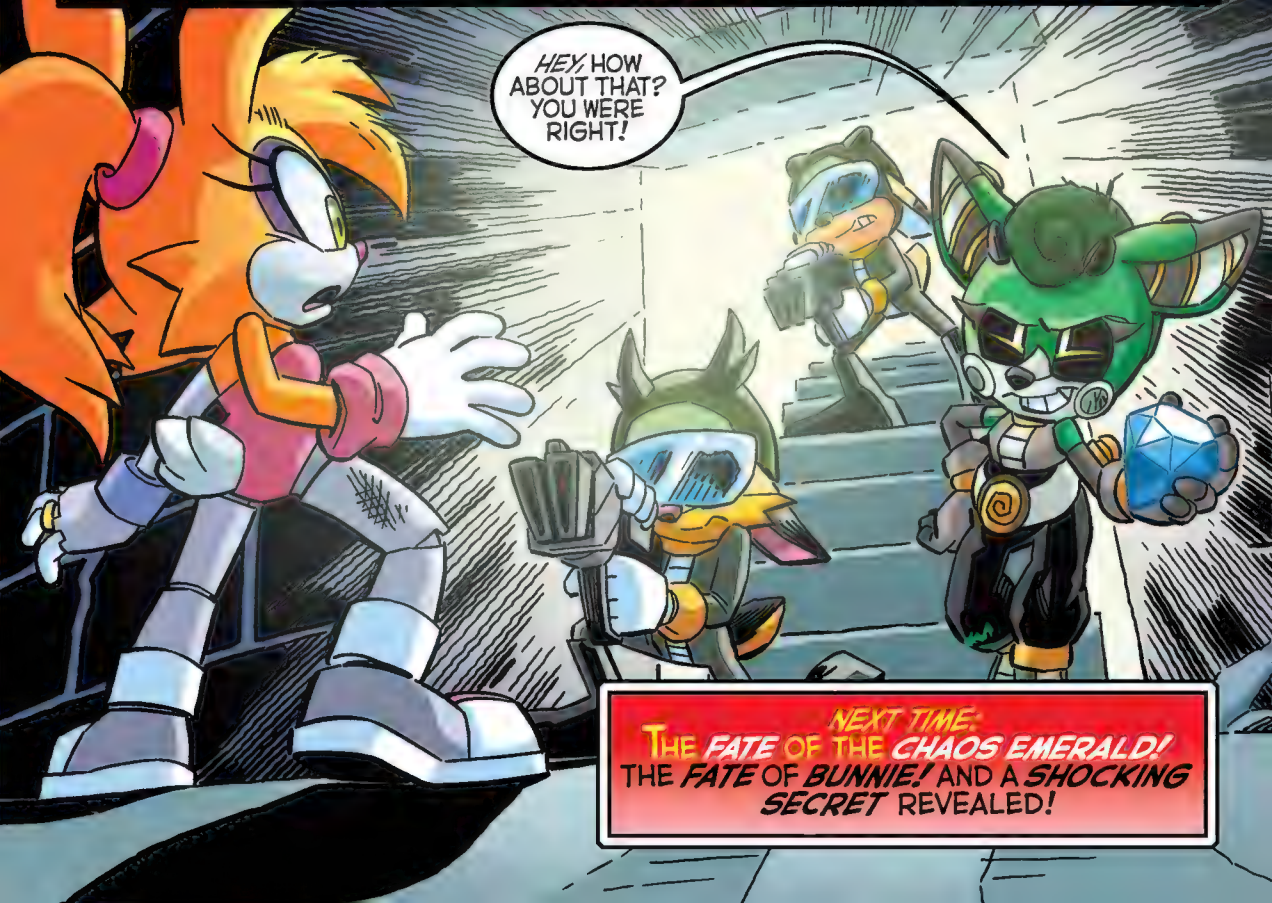
YUP, I DUNNO WHICH PART OF THE GROUNDS THIS GOES TO, BUT IT'S A WAY OUT.

WELL, THEN, NO OFFENSE, BUT AH'M LEAVIN' YOU HERE. AH'M SURE SOMEONE'LL BE ALONG TO GET YOU SOON ENOUGH.



DON'T MOVE!

HEY, HOW ABOUT THAT? YOU WERE RIGHT!



**NEXT TIME:**  
**THE FATE OF THE CHAOS EMERALD!**  
**THE FATE OF BUNNIE! AND A SHOCKING SECRET REVEALED!**



# Letter from the EDITOR

*Editorial commentary that's been "spiked" with information!*

## Hey there, Sonic comic readers!

Hope you all enjoyed the double dose of **Freedom Fighters** this issue! What did everyone think of the newcomers **Spike**, **Sonar** and **Trevor**? We'd like to know, so please write in to **Sonic@ArchieComics.com** to tell us who is your favorite!

Sonic comic scribes **Ian Flynn** and **Aleah Baker** came up with the initial designs for these new Freedom Fighters with some fine-tuning done by yours truly! Check out the awesome production art below!

As many of you could probably guess, Spike, Sonar and Trevor are modeled after the trio of Sonic, Tails and Knuckles! Of course, each has their own unique abilities. Spike can spin like a whirlwind,

**BELOW:** Design concept for Spike the Porcupine.



Sonar can use her ultrasonic hearing to gather intel and Trevor can burrow underground for surprise attacks! Pretty cool, huh?

Well that's all for this segment! See y'all next time for more behind-the-scenes fun!

– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo  
Editor

*Vin*  
2015

**BELOW:** Design concept for Sonar the Fennec.



**BELOW:** Design concept for Trevor Burrow the Mole.



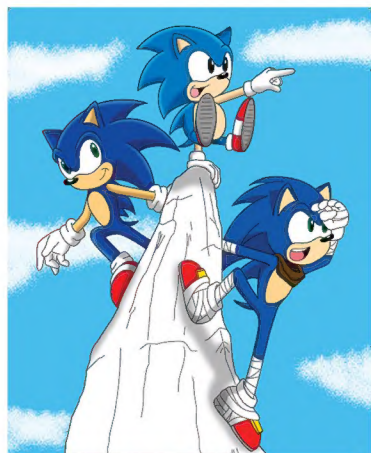


# SONIC GRAMS

# FAN ART



**Mike J.** sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



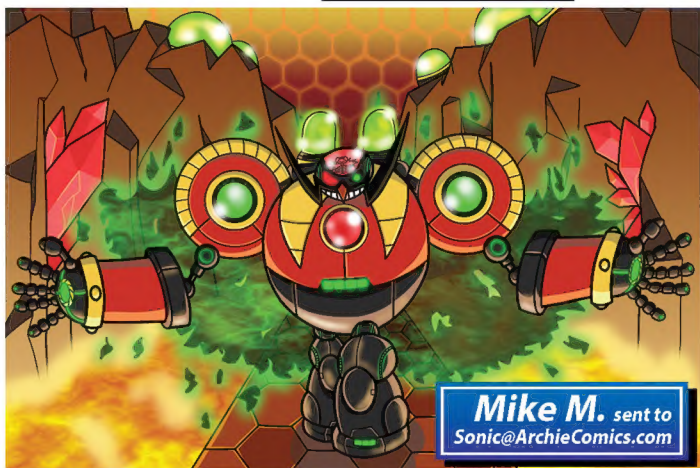
**Stephanie C.C.** sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



**Teddy D.** sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



**John S.Z.** sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



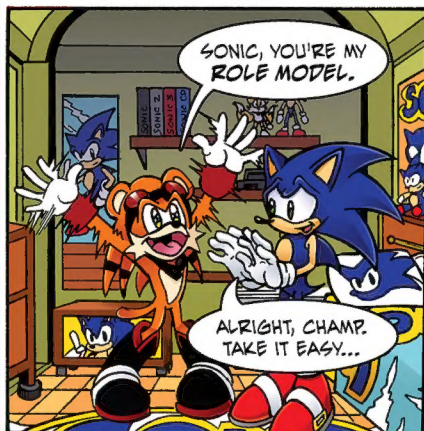
**Mike M.** sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



## OFF-PANEL

A HUMOROUS COMIC STRIP  
FEATURING TWO SPINY,  
ANTHROPOMORPHIC  
CREATURES IN WHICH  
A FUNNY JOKE IS MADE

## OR HEAVY METAL OVERDRIVE



SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL PENCILS: LAMAR WELLS INKS: RICK BRYANT COLORS: ALEAH BAKER





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# SONIC GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O  
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100  
PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL:  
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM  
OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi! My name is Nina and I'm possibly your biggest fan!

*Hi, Nina! Nice to meet you!*

I love your comics! This is my first time writing to you and I'm pretty excited! I've got some questions for you:

1. Will we be seeing any more of Captain Metal and the Egg o' War?

*When we last saw the the Egg o' War (housing what was left of Cpt. Metal) it sat waterlogged, with a hole in its side at the bottom of the ocean in Blaze's world! Will it rise to ravage worlds again? You'll just have to wait and see!*

2. Will Eclipse be back for revenge?

*When we last saw Eclipse, he'd crash-landed a stolen G.U.N. cruiser into a swamp somewhere on the planet's surface! Will he return with his Dark Arms to eat the people of Sonic's world? You'll just have to wait and see!*

3. What type of animal is Amy Rose?

*When we last saw Amy Rose she was a hedgehog! Will she ever be anything other than a hedgehog? You'll just have to wait and (No. The answer is no.) see!*

4. Can I be pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeease be Silver's #1 fan?

Nina P.  
from Massachusetts

*When we last saw Nina, I was answering her letter in the previous column! Will she ever be Silver's #1 fan? You'll just have to wait (Sure, OK.) and see!*

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I've been a reader of the Sonic comics for a long time. I was very excited for your *Sonic the Fighters* adaptation! It's my favorite obscure Sonic game! My favorite character in the comics is Bean and I hope his crazy, wacky antics remain in this comic forever. I have one question though: Is the purple pufferfish girl from the "Champions" arc the royal daughter of King Puff and Queen Angelica from "Waves of Change"?

Seamus B. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

*Waaait... do you mean the same purple pufferfish girl parading through Shamar Square who's carrying that weird magic rainy umbrella and also appears on page 7 of this very issue?!?!? @ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ @ ; ; ; ;*

*I dunno what you're talking about, Seamus, but thanks for the letter!*

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi Guys! You are great! Tails you are my favorite. So on video game day for homecoming, I dressed up as you! Keep on running, Sonic! Keep punching things, Knuckles! Have fun, Amy! Good luck, Sticks! Tails, I hope you keep on being my favorite! Peace out!

Alex A. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

*Peace out, Alex! That's cool that you*

*dressed up! Keep on keepin' on, friend!*

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I just wanted to write you guys a quick (no pun intended) letter saying how much I LOVE your Sonic comics.

*Well thanks so much! We LOVE hearing back from our awesome readers!*

I became a Sonic fan on his 15th anniversary and I've stayed a devout fan ever since! The day I first met Sonic is probably one of my clearest memories. My Mom had gone to the pharmacy close to our home while I was watching TV. When she came back she gave me a surprise: A Sonic comic book! I was so excited as I delved into "His World"! My first book was *Sonic X* #20 and I read it everyday! (This is where I weep true blue tears.)

*True blue tears is da best teases there is!*

I started buying his games, watching his shows, buying his merch and, after I look back at all of this, I think, "Life's pretty sweet! I'll always love Sonic and will always support him because he's the most 'way past cool' character I know!" Keep on reaching for those stars, guys!

Stephen M. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

*Thanks for that heartfelt letter, Stephen! It warms our hearts to know that everything we do makes every Sonic fan, no matter who or where they are, a little bit happier!*

*And with that, we end this letter column! See you guys later!*

CHECK OUT MORE AWESOME TITLES FROM

**Archie ACTION!**





NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 279



**"FACE OF THE ENEMY" Pt.2**

**AND "HIDDEN COSTS Pt.3"**